

*Testimony Submitted to the Human Services Committee:*

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H.B. No.6947 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE CONTRACTS FOR HUMAN SERVICES.

Submitted By: Anne Ruwet, CEO of CCARC, Inc.

March 12, 2015

Senator Moore and Representative Abercombie and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Anne Ruwet, CEO of CCARC, Inc. CCARC, Inc. has been a provider of services to people with disabilities and their families since 1952. We provide Residential and Individual Support Services to over 200 people in the Greater New Britain community. We are also members of Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (CT Nonprofits.) and CT Community Providers Association.

This bill's intent is to ensure uniform and adequate reimbursement for private providers of health and human services who enter into contracts with state agencies. I am here today to plead with you to support this bill. It is time to ensure that the system of care that has been created over the past 30 years to provide the critical services to our most vulnerable citizens be adequately funded. For almost a decade *your* community providers have not received the adequate funding for these services. It is now the time to make this happen. If you do nothing to fully reimburse *your* community providers the system of care within the community is at risk to collapse. Maybe not tomorrow but the continued degradation of this system of care will directly impact *your* constituents who each and every day depend on us. The persistent underfunding of our respective services is making our services more fragile. Many providers in discussion with volunteer Boards of Directors are worried about the future stability of our services. We have been creative, resilient and collaborative with our partners inclusive of the state agencies, private foundations, peer agencies and our community friends. We have done our part and will continue to partner with all of them but it is time the state hears our collective voices and fund our services adequately. The state needs a strong system of care in the community as recognized by many studies as well as the statute to create the Governor's Non Profit Cabinet of which I have been appointed for the past three years. The Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services was established in September of 2011 to analyze existing *public-private partnerships* with respect to the state's health and human services delivery systems and to make recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of those systems in regard to client outcomes, cost-effectiveness, accountability and *sustainability*. The Cabinet has made numerous recommendations to the Governor for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the service delivery system, as well as strengthening and

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ANNE L. RUWET  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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increasing the sustainability nonprofit organizations. This report includes specific recommendations in the areas

of: • Enhancing Financial Viability • Supporting the Workforce • Bonding Opportunities • Contracting Opportunities. In addition, the Cabinet made recommendations for future areas of focus in 2015. I applaud the Cabinet and the Governor for accepting these recommendations and his continued support of the Cabinet, although it is time to invest in the community providers and put the money in the budget so that we can continue to provide the critical services to the people with disabilities and their families who depend on us. We have already proven to be cost effective and efficient with the state's tax dollars but to what extreme. I urge you to reinvest in the community providers we deserve it but more importantly the people with support deserve it even more.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or for additional information.

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